Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 L-03 SP-02 NSC-05

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INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 ARA-06 IGA-02 FEAE-00 INT-05 /092 W ------ 076412

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5739

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PO

SUBJ: SEC. 103(D) (3), P.L. 480-POSSIBLE NEED FOR

PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER

REF: (A) STATE 1041, (B) LISBON 311, (C) STATE 11678, (D) LISBON 379

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS FOLLOWED UP ON DISCUSSION OF PORTUGUESE-CUBAN TRADE WITH MINISTRY OF FINANCE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ADVISER SANTOS LABISA, NOTING RECENT PRESS REPORT THAT MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND TOURISM JORGE CAMPINOS HAD ANNOUNCED POSSIBILITIES OF INCREASED TRADE WITH CUBA. ACCORDING TO RE-PORT, PORTUGUESE ANTICIPATE CONTINUING IMPORTS OF CUBAN SUGAR WHILE INITIATING SALES TO CUBA OF SUCH PRODUCTS AS PULP, CEMENT, GLASS, COTTON TEXTILES, ELECTRICAL CABLES, MOTOR OILS AND MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT. LABISA WAS ASKED HOW THESE STATEMENTS COULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH SUBSTANCE OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE STATEMENT WHICH FORMED BASIS FOR RESPONSE CONTAINED REF (D). LABISA COMMENTED THAT MINISTRY OF FINANCE, IN RESPONDING TO EMBASSY INQUIRY ABOUT CUBAN TRADE, HAD CONSIDERED ONLY TRADE THROUGH GOVERNMENT CHANNELS AS TRADITIONALLY DEFINED, GOP DOES, HE SAID, EXPECT INCREASE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRADE WITH CUBA THROUGH PRIVATE AND NATIONALIZED COMPANIES.

FROM ITS POINT OF VIEW, HE OBSERVED, GOP CONTINUES TO REGARD RECENTLY NATIONALIZED FIRMS AS PART OF PRIVATE RATHER THAN PUBLIC SECTOR.

2. IN SAME REGARD, LUBRICANTS EXPORTED TO CUBA IN 1975 ARE CONSIDERED BY GOP TO HAVE COME FROM PRIVATE SECTOR EVEN THOUGH SOME OF THEM UNDOUBTEDLY ORIGINATED IN NATIONALIZED FIRM. CARLUCCI

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